

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1686
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: UNHCR
SUBJECT: PROJECTED ENLARGEMENT OF UNHCR EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE

REF: A. GENEVA 9863; B. STATE 167512

1. IN LIEU OF LARGER MEETING ANTICIPATED PARA 1, REF A,
VAN NOUHUYS AND SWEDISH COLLEAGUE, LARS GRUNDBERG, CALLED
ON MISSION HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS COUNSELOR JULY 5 TO SET
FORTH PROSPECT FOR POSSIBLE ENLARGEMENT OF UNHCR EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE, AND TO SOLICIT INITIAL U.S. REACTION THERETO.
THEY ARE ANXIOUS THAT POSITIONS BE CODRDINATED AND FIRMED
UP AS SOON AS POSSIBLE IN ORDER THAT, IF PROJECT GOES FOR-
WARD, IT MAY BE PRESENTED TO ECOSOC'S CURRENT SESSION ON
JULY 21, WHEN THE HIGH COMMISSIONER'S REPORT IS PRESENTED
TO THAT BODY AND WHEN HICOMM HARTLING WILL BE IN GENEVA
FOR A BRIEF PERIOD.

2. VAN NOUHUYS' PRESENTATION OF THIS PROJECT FOLLOWED
ESSENTIALLY THE DESCRIPTION GIVEN IN REF A. HE INDICATED
THAT THE SUBJECT HAD ALREADY BEEN DISCUSSED BY INTERESTED
PARTIES IN NEW YORK, AND WAS KNOWN IN ECOSOC. WHAT HE AND
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GRUNDBERG WISHED TO KNOW AT THIS TIME WAS:
A. DID THE UNITED STATES CONSIDER THIS A GOOD IDEA;
B. IN WHAT WAY SHOULD THE ENLARGEMENT BE ACCOMPLISHED,
I.E., SHOULD IT BE DONE IN THE "NORMAL U.N. MANNER" (GEO-
GRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION, ETC.), OR IN THE TRADITIONAL UNHCR
MEMBERSHIP FASHION (THOSE WHO HAVE EXHIBITED ACTIVE IN-
TEREST IN REFUGEE PROBLEMS;

C. WHAT SHOULD BE THE RECOMMENDED INCREASE.

ON THE SECOND POINT, BOTH VAN NOUHUYS AND GRUNDBERG FELT THAT THE TRADITIONAL UNHCR COMPOSITION SHOULD BE ADHERED TO.

3. MISSION COUNSELOR RESPONDED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GUIDANCE PROVIDED REF B, EMPHASIZING U.S. BELIEF THAT PRESENT COMPOSITION OF EXCOMM PROVIDED EFFECTIVE, RESPONSIVE, AND BASICALLY NON-POLITICAL GOVERNING BODY, WHICH MIGHT BE JEOPARDIZED IF EXPANSION, AND PARTICULARLY SIZEABLE EXPANSION OCCURS. HAVING SAID THIS, HOWEVER, U.S. WOULD BE PREPARED TO GO ALONG WITH SUCH A PROPOSAL SHOULD THERE BE A STRONG MAJORITY IN FAVOR. WHILE U.S. WOULD PREFER AS LIMITED AN ENLARGEMENT AS POSSIBLE, IT WOULD NOT EXCLUDE POSSIBILITY OF SUPPORTING INCREASE OF MEMBERSHIP TO FORTY SHOULD THIS BE FAVORED BY LARGE MAJORITY. VAN NOUHUYS AND GRUNDBERG EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THESE VIEWS.

4. THEY SAID THAT THEY HAD ALREADY HELD CONSULTATIONS WITH THE NINE ON THE SUBJECT AND MOST MEMBERS WERE NON-COMMITTAL --WISHING TO REFER THE SUBJECT TO THEIR CAPITALS FOR GUIDANCE. HOWEVER, THE U.K. REP, WHO HAD BEEN CONSULTED EARLIER AND HAD, LIKE OURSELVES, RECEIVED GUIDANCE, STATED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WAS NOT ENTHUSIASTIC OVER THE PROPOSAL, FEELING THAT THE PRESENT BODY RESPONDED WELL TO UNHCR REQUIREMENTS, BUT WOULD GO ALONG SHOULD A STRONG MAJORITY BE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IN FAVOR. THE U.K. FELT THAT MAXIMUM INCREASE SHOULD BE FIVE, WITH THREE PLACES RESERVED FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, AND TWO FOR DEVELOPED, OF WHICH U.K. WOULD PRESS FOR JAPAN AS ONE. IT ALSO FELT THAT AT LEAST TWO OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRY PLACES SHOULD BE RESERVED FOR THE FAR EAST, ONE OF WHICH WOULD BE MALAYSIA.

5. VAN NOUHUYS AND GRUNDBERG ARE CONTINUING THEIR CONTACTS AND EXPECT TO TOUCH BASE NEXT WITH NIGERIA AND BRAZIL.

6. MISSION WILL KEEP DEPARTMENT POSTED, AND WOULD APPRECIATE ANY FURTHER THOUGHTS DEPARTMENT MAY HAVE TO OFFER. VANDEN HEUVEL

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